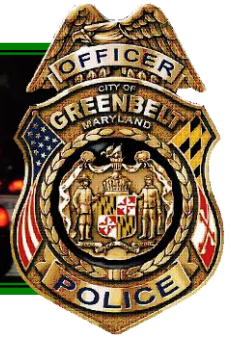


# **GREENBELT POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**APRIL 14, 2017**

**1:00 P.M.**

### **GREENBELT POLICE TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS APRIL 29 AT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On April 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Greenbelt Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Greenbelt Police Department at 550 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD. (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

During last April's Drug Take Back campaign, the DEA and over 4,200 of its state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners collected 893,498 pounds of unwanted medicines—about 447 tons—at almost 5,400 sites spread through all 50 states, beating its previous high of 390 tons in the spring of 2014 by 57 tons, or more than 114,000 pounds.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 29 Take Back Day event, go to the [DEA Diversion website](http://www.dea.gov/diversion).

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